



City of Grand Forks

Staff Report

Committee of the Whole – December 8, 2025

City Council – December 15, 2025

Agenda Item: 2026 Streets Projects Update

Submitted by: Engineering Department, Edward J. Liberman, PE (Assistant City Engineer)

For Information Only – No action required

BACKGROUND: The City of Grand Forks Engineering Department provides for the construction, maintenance and repair of city streets to ensure safe and efficient transportation. This is accomplished through projects funded by the Street and Infrastructure Fund (Fund 4815), establishment of special assessment districts, and strategic project partnerships. In April 2018, an additional 0.5% City sales tax was approved, from which a portion of the revenue generated is transferred into Fund 4815 for the purpose of improving the condition, safety and capacity of city streets. The City 2026 adopted budget for Fund 4815 provides \$19.3M for the accomplishment of streets projects. This report provides a summary of the streets projects proposed to be accomplished in 2026 using various local, state, and federal funds.

ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS OF FACT:

2026 STREETS PROJECTS

2025 proved to be an excellent year for construction, with over \$19.7M in streets construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects executed. In 2026, we aim to continue this solid execution rate by pursuing a robust streets improvement program and maximizing use of our in-house design capabilities. We strive for a balanced approach to addressing city streets requirements, recognizing several broad categories of projects:

- New Development consists of the construction of public infrastructure to add capacity and support the development of greenfield sites for the purpose of residential, commercial, or industrial facilities.
 - We are scheduled to complete the public infrastructure for Korynta-Lemm 6th Resubdivision, with pavement and street lights installation in 2026. Wet utilities installation at this site is nearly complete, and storm pond/pump station/forcemain construction will continue throughout the winter months and wrap-up next summer.
 - Birkholz 8th Addition will be a new site for commercial and residential development in

2026. While this is currently undergoing the platting process, we anticipate a signed development agreement and are working toward enabling construction start in 2026.

- The phasing of underground infrastructure along Highway 81 will continue, with installation of watermain along N. Washington St. and paving of a portion of 27th Ave N. Following this work, the remaining work will be some minor storm sewer installation and a second phase of paving 27th Ave N., which is likely to occur in 2027.
- Buildout of connecting infrastructure for the I-29 interchange at 47th Ave will continue in 2026 with the paving of 47th Ave S. (Columbia Rd west to S. 34th St.) and connecting streets to the north (S. 30th St and S. 34th St).
- At the future site of the Altru Sports Complex and Grand Forks Children’s Museum, the intersection at 17th Ave S. and S. 42nd St. will be further built out. This work will include paving 17th Ave S. to the west and expanding the traffic signal infrastructure.
- Finally, with the growth occurring along the S. 42nd St corridor, Engineering is anticipating the accompanying infrastructure needs and traffic impacts. We will be installing a 650 ft length of 16” watermain along S. 42nd St, which will complete system looping in this area. We are also looking at options to expand the width of S. 42nd St south of the 17th Ave S. intersection, with a target for construction in 2026.

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- **Partner Programs.** In addition to City-funded projects, Engineering leverages federal and state funds to rehabilitate deteriorated pavements and infrastructure in major traffic corridors and improve intersections safety. Highlights in 2026 are the continued work on the Demers Ave/42nd St underpass and the I-29 interchange. We will also be designing safety improvements at the intersection of Gateway Dr. and N. Columbia Rd.
- **In-House Reconstruction.** In-house design of pavement reconstruction projects looks at local and classified streets where existing pavements are severely deteriorated, and maintenance or repair activities would not be cost effective. The intent of these projects is to address “worst-first” pavements, while striking a balance between high-volume classified streets and local neighborhood streets that would otherwise be “out-of-sight”. In 2026, we will be proposing to reconstruct a portion of 17th Ave S. (Columbia Rd east to S. 20th St), 5th Ave S. (between the central fire station and Xcel Energy complex), and 11th Ave N. (Gateway Dr. to N. 4th St.). We will also be doing an extensive pavement and stormwater repair on Columbia Rd south of the 24th Ave S. intersection to address recurring pavement heaving.
- **In-House Asphalt Mill & Overlay.** Following the 1997 Grand Forks flood, a large number of asphalt streets along the eastern side of the city were milled/overlayed. As these asphalt pavements are approaching or have exceeded 25+ years, Engineering is making a concerted effort to focus resources on these neighborhoods. In 2026, Engineering will propose the following mill/overlay locations:
 - S. 4th St (railroad crossing to Gertrude Ave, including side streets)
 - S. 26th St (24th Ave S. to 28th Ave S.) and 26th Ave S. (S. Columbia Rd to S. 25th St)
 - 17th Ave S. (Cherry St to Belmont Rd)
 - 62nd Ave S. (S. Washington St to S. Columbia Rd)

Additionally, we will be proposing the City fund a scrub seal of the asphalt-overlayed portions of Belmont Rd (Division Ave to 32nd Ave S.). Scrub sealing will use an

application of oil and “chip” to extend the life of these pavements. Combined, these asphalt repair and maintenance projects represent an estimated \$1.5M investment in asphalt pavements, which is a typical investment level for this type of work.

- We will continue to address smaller, routine repairs of concrete and asphalt pavements, ADA ramps, and sidewalks. Unlike 2025, where we had a surge effort to repair significantly degraded sidewalks in the University Park Neighborhood, we anticipate returning to normal levels of this type of work in 2026.
- The Engineering Electrical Division will continue efforts to maintain and improve streets infrastructure through traffic signal maintenance/improvements and upgrading of old high pressure sodium streetlights with new energy-efficient LED fixtures.

SUPPORT MATERIALS:

A list of proposed streets projects for design and/or construction in 2026 is attached along with the 2026 Projects Map. Cost estimates are preliminary and will be refined throughout the design phase.

2026 Streets Projects (Proposed)

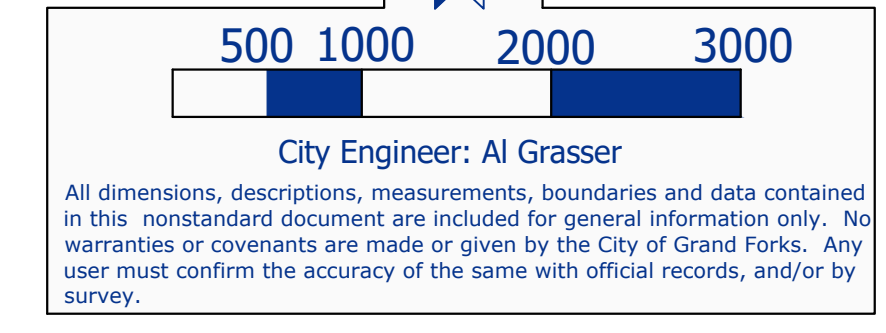
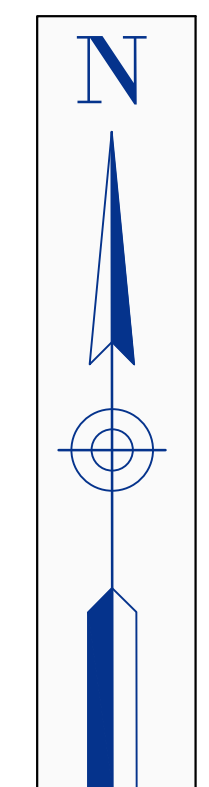
Projects	City Cost Share (est.)	Notes
42 nd St Underpass	\$21.6M	Fed/State/City/BNSF partnership. City cost share from SRF & 4815
I-29 Interchange	\$1.5M	NEPA, Design cost share, RoW acquisition
Pave 47 th Ave (Columbia to S. 34 th St.), S. 30 th St, S. 34 th St.	\$2.15M	Special assessed with City cost share on classified streets
Paving/street lights – Korynta Lemm 6 th Resubdivision (N. 52 nd /55 th St., 17 th Ave N.)	\$2.6M	Industrial development (special assessed w/City cost share on classified streets) [\$14.5M]
Paving/street lights/utilities/storm pond/box culvert crossing – Birkholz 8 th Addition	TBD	New residential/commercial development.
Widen S. 42 nd St; loop water main	TBD	Development of S. 42 nd St corridor
Pave 70 th Ave N. (Epitome Energy)	\$1.1M	EDA grant for \$3.2M
Pave 27 th Ave N. (Washington to N. 32 nd St)	\$1.4M	Commercial development (80% City cost share, 20% special assessed) [\$1.77M]
Pave 17 th Ave S. (S. 42 nd St west to Altru Sports Complex	\$1.8M	100% special assessed; assessment amount for City lots in 2026 budget
Repair S. Columbia Rd pavement & storm sewer (south of 24 th Ave S.)	\$400K	100% City funded
Reconstruct 17 th Ave S. (Columbia Rd to S. 20 th St)	\$2.3M	70% City funded, 30% special assessed
Reconstruct 5 th Ave S. (Demers Ave – north alley)	\$420K	70% City funded, 30% special assessed
Concrete panel replacement & grind – Demers Ave (Central Fire Station to 6 th Ave N.)	\$210K	80% federal, 10% state, 10% City funded [\$2.1M]
Reconstruct 11 th Ave N. (Gateway Dr to N. 4 th St.)	\$154K	70% City funded, 30% special assessed
Mill/overlay: 62 nd Ave (Wash. To Columbia)	\$1.3M	70% City funded, 30% special assessed
S. 4 th St (railroad to Gertrude & side streets)		
S. 26 th St, 26 th Ave S.		
17 th Ave S. (Cherry St to Belmont Rd)		
Scrub Seal Belmont Rd (Roundabout to 32 nd Ave S. – asphalt sections)	\$160K	100% City funded
Bridge & box culvert repairs	\$400K	6 th Ave N. rehabilitation
Point Bridge rehabilitation	\$230K	Federal/State/City (10%) funding [\$2.3M]
Sorlie Bridge joint replacement	\$10K	City cost share
Sidewalks/ADA Ramps	\$100K	\$500K, mostly special assessed
Concrete street repairs	\$833K	100% City funded
Asphalt street repairs		
Bikepath & sidewalk maintenance		
Traffic signal & street lights maintenance		
Railroad crossing improvements	\$100K	
Total Projects Value (Est.)	\$38.8M	

City of Grand Forks, ND Engineering Department 2026 Project Map

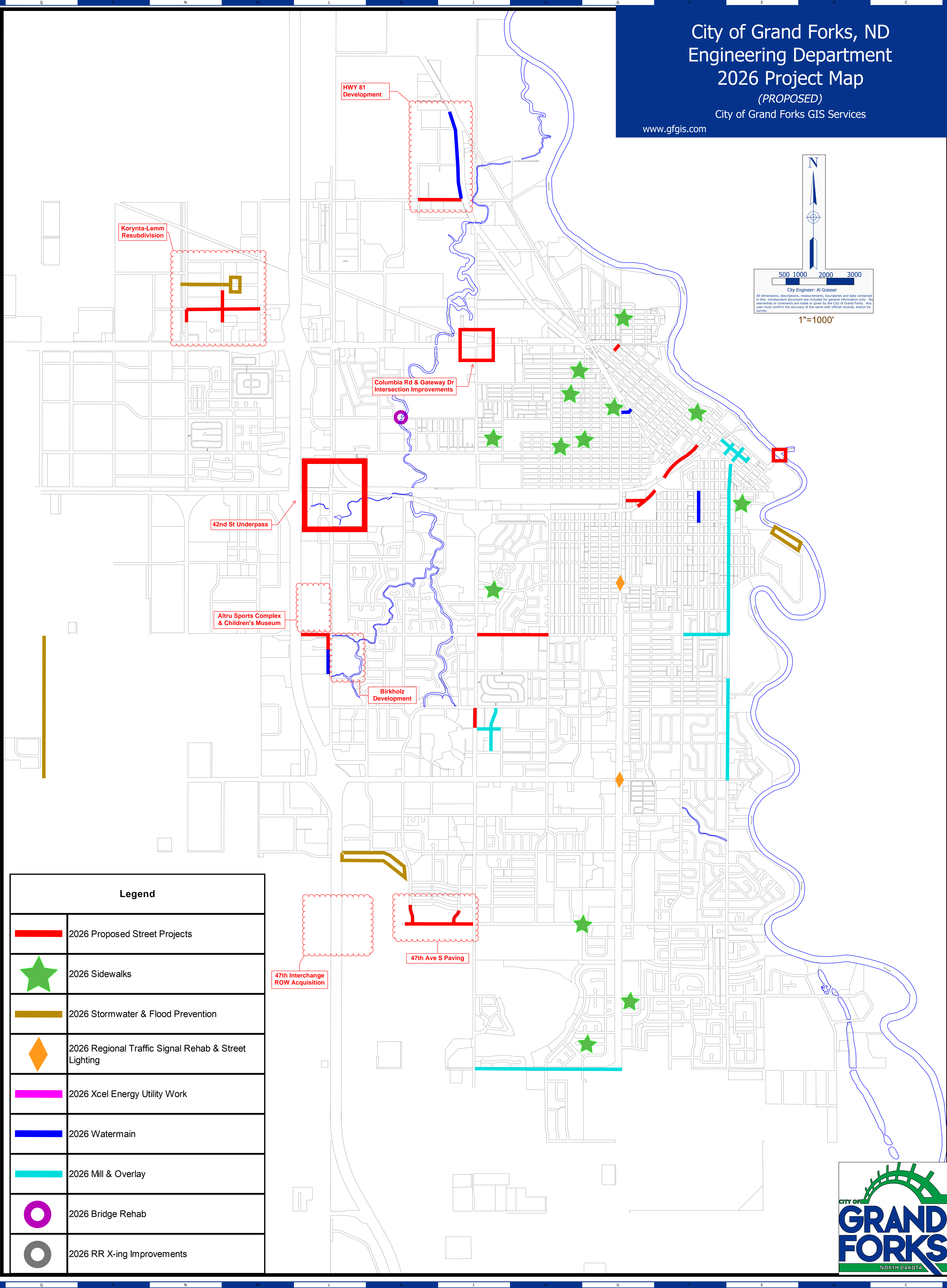
(PROPOSED)

City of Grand Forks GIS Services








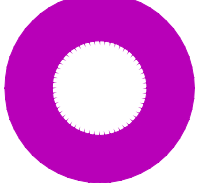
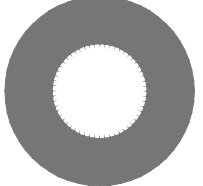
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1"=1000'



Legend

	2026 Proposed Street Projects
	2026 Sidewalks
	2026 Stormwater & Flood Prevention
	2026 Regional Traffic Signal Rehab & Street Lighting
	2026 Xcel Energy Utility Work
	2026 Watermain
	2026 Mill & Overlay
	2026 Bridge Rehab
	2026 RR X-ing Improvements

